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CPHA is an affiliate of  
the American Public  
Health Association.

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 6550**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY'S**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO COMMUNITY**  
**BENEFITS PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY HOSPITALS**

Public Health Committee

March 8, 2021

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA), thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of HB 6550**. CPHA's mission is to provide leadership to the public and policymakers on health promotion and disease prevention through advocacy, education, and professional development. I serve as the chair of the CPHA Advocacy Committee.

Last year, CPHA released a statement declaring that racism is a public health crisis. Legislation that would advance health equity was identified by our membership as a priority. HB 6550 would do just that by strengthening and improving the timing, content, regularity, and uniformity of reporting from hospitals, including how community benefits are addressing the health care needs of populations served by the hospitals. We must ensure that nonprofit hospitals' reinvestments stay local and help to financially support needed community resources.

Reporting should include information about health outcomes, detailed uniform data describing the demographic makeup of the community, and how the hospital identifies and prioritizes community needs, including how the hospital solicits meaningful community input and feedback.

**CPHA believes that changes to community benefit regulations should:** define "meaningful participation," explicitly require that community participation reflect the demographics of each hospital's community, require standardized reporting of data on the race, ethnicity, primary language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity of the community, and include a public comment period to solicit public feedback on annual reporting by OHS on community benefit programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 6550.

Sincerely,

Roberta R. Friedman, ScM  
Chair, Advocacy Committee